

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6038

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COSTA GOMES ADDRESSES POLITICAL-MILITARY SEMINAR

1. POLITICAL-MILITARY SEMINAR: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES
GAVE OPENING ADDRESS TO WEEK-LONG SEMINAR OF POLITICAL-
MILITARY INSTRUCTION FOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN LISBON FEB 16.
PRIME MINISTER, MILITARY MINISTERS, AND PARTY LEADERS
ATTENDED OPENING SESSION. LEADERS OF FIVE MAJOR PARTIES
WILL ADDRESS SEMINAR BEGINNING FEB 17. PRINCIPAL TOPICS
OF SEMINAR ARE: PROGRAM OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, (AFM),
THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE ARMED FORCES; THE ARMED
FORCES IN THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION; AND DISCIPLINE IN
THE ARMED FORCES.

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2. COSTA GOMES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS OPENING

ADDRESS:

-- DEEPER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND ARMED FORCES IS NECESSARY TO ASSURE TRUE DEMOCRACY.

-- LACK OF POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DRASTIC TURNS IN PORTUGUESE POLITICS AND AMONG ARMED FORCES.

-- LINES FOR ARMED FORCES ACTION WERE SET OUT IN DEC 11 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF ARMED FORCES, IN AFM-PARTIES PACT, AND IN A SERIES OF DIRECTIVES RESTRUCTURING THE ARMED FORCES.

-- AFM PACT AND ARMED FORCES RESTRUCTURING ARE BASED ON PRINCIPLE ESTABLISHED IN THE CONSTITUTION THAT POLITICAL POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE.

-- NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT DEMONSTRATED THAT ONE CANNOT TREAD ON WILL OF MAJORITY.

-- ARMED FORCES MUST NOT USE ARMS OR POSITION TO INFLUENCE POLITICS.

-- ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IS TO GUARANTEE FULFILLMENT OF CONSTITUTION.

-- ONLY UNIFIED, COHESIVE, AND DISCIPLINED ARMED FORCES CAN GUARANTEE CONSTITUTION.

IN EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH, COSTA GOMES TOOK A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ACK. HE REMINDED POLITICAL PARTIES THAT "IT WOULD BE A TRAGIC ERROR TO SEEK TO MINIMIZE THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PERIOD FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS."

3. COMMENT: IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO SEMINAR IS INDICATED BY PRESENCE OF MANY HIGH-RANKING MILITARY AND POLITICAL FIGURES. HAVING REJECTED ROLE OF "VANGUARD" IN POLITICAL PROCESS, MILITARY LEADERS ARE STRESSING NEW AND LEGITIMATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAYS TO INVOLVE MILITARY IN POLITICAL PROCESS. EVEN "OPERATIONAL" MILITARY ARE CONVINCED THAT MILITARY CANNOT ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE POLITICAL PROCESS. MILITARY MUST INSTEAD BECOME BETTER INFORMED IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED BY CONSTITUTION. COSTA GOMES'S EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS ARE REFERENCE TO SA CARNEIRO'S SHARP ATTACKS ON MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS, AND REFLECT SENSITIVITY TO PPD'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF

SIMULTANEOUS PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.
(FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SEMINAR, SEE OPL
3325 REPORT CLASS SECRET/WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE
TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--NOT RELEASABLE TO CONTRACTORS OR
CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANTS.)
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